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SUBJ: OKINAWA PRESS QUERY ON DISPOSITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESS INQUIRY ON MEANING OF SECSTATE ROGERS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WE HAVE PROVIDED FOLLOWING TO DEPARTMENT'S SOKESMAN. SUGGEST ADDRESSEE POSTS FOLLOW SIMILAR LINE IF QUERIED.

2. QUESTION: THE JAPANESE PRESS HAS INTERPRETED A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY ROGERS, IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY, TO MEAN THAT HE US HAS ALREADY REMOVED NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM OKINAWA. THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY SENATOR SYMINGTON, AND TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE HEARINGS SHOW THAT THE SECRETARY SAID "AS FAR AS THE JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED, WELL NO, WE DO NOT HAVE ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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ON OKINAWA." COULD YOU CLARIFY THE SITUATION FOR US?

3. ANSWER: THE INFERENCE DRAWN BY THE JAPANESE PRESS SIMPLY DOES NOT TRACK. A READING OF THE FULL TRANSCRIPT, PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE TO SENATOR SYMINGTON'S NEXT QUESTION, SHOWS CLEARLY THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN TERMS OF THE FUTURE--OF OUR INTENTIONS. HIS RESPONSE TO THE NEXT QUESTION WAS, "WELL, SO FAR AS THE JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED, SENATOR, THEY KNOW AND THEY ARE ENTIRELY SATISFIED WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON OKINAWA". I ALSO REFER YOU TO DEPUTY SECRETARY PACKARD'S TESTIMONY YESTERDAY ON THE SAME SUBJECT. AGAIN IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR SYMINGTON, MR. PACKARD SAID "I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IF THERE ARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THERE, THEY WILL NOT BE THERE ON REVERSION DAY." HE WAS SPEAKING, OF COURSE, WITH REFERENCE TO OKINAWA. ROGERS

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